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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Toshio HASEGAWA

: EXAMINER: VANOY, TIMOTHY C.

SERIAL NO.: 09/718,483

:

FILED: November 24, 2000

GROUP ART UNIT: 1754

FOR: EXHAUST APPARATUS FOR :  
PROCESS APPARATUS AND  
METHOD OF REMOVING  
IMPURITY GAS

RESTRICTION RESPONSE

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
JUN 25 2002  
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SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed May 24, 2002, Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group II, Claims 8, 12-17, for examination on the merits in the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement as follows.

MPEP § 803

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Accordingly, Applicant also respectfully traverses the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious*

burden on the Examiner.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request this Restriction Requirement be withdrawn. Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-18 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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